

To: Stanislaus, Mathy[Stanislaus.Mathy@epa.gov]; Breen, Barry[Breen.Barry@epa.gov]
Cc: Cheatham, Reggie[cheatham.reggie@epa.gov]; Tulis, Dana[Tulis.Dana@epa.gov]; Natarajan, Nitin[Natarajan.Nitin@epa.gov]
From: Natarajan, Nitin
Sent: Sun 8/9/2015 8:20:08 PM
Subject: Notes from 1500 Call

Below are my notes from the 1500 call.....feel free to add/edit as appropriate

Colorado Senators are in Durango and were at the EOC at 1000L this morning. There is frustration over the lack of water data available for the public.

The available data has been shared however the narrative document is still pending

Baseline target being used for water quality is pre-incident (already quite contaminated) and there is significant data to establish that baseline.

There will be a conference call at 1400L today with Congressional personnel, 1500L with the media and 1800L with the public

There is an issue with the August 7/8 samples in that the vendor had not processed them so we are sending them to the lab in Golden. This will result in a slight delay in processing.

We do have current ph data just not the metals data mentioned above. R9 metals data should be available on Tuesday and R6 data may be available tomorrow.

While there is a JIC setup and established there are concerns about coordinated communications. R8 will look at this more closely and look to better streamline efforts.

An area command is being established and will be located in Durango.

Rate of flow is still 500 gallons/minute.

State has mentioned concerns regarding the settlement ponds but EPA does not believe they are valid.

Current volume based on USGS data is in excess of 3 million gallons. Messaging needs to be developed to identify the impacts of this change, where the data came from and why we are changing our estimates. R9 suggests additional ORD and OW engagement on this issue.

ASPECT reports that the plume appears clearer.

State does not believe that there will be an impact to livestock that may have come in contact with the contaminated water.

Navajo nation are sending an 8-person delegation to visit the mine site and have declared a state of emergency.

Governor Hickenlooper may visit the site on Monday.

There are allegations from Hill staff that EPA did not follow its policies at this site. R8 has stood up a team (Matt has suggested having folks from outside the affected regions to also participate) to develop a chronology of events and investigate the issue (somewhat internal review'ish)

Compensation remains an issue and Matt is looking at OSWER to continue the conversation on this on Monday

R9 has two CICs responding to the Navajo Nation

The City of Montezuma on the Navajo reservation has had their water supply impacted. They currently have two days supply of water.

Matt will put together a small group to brief Gina on the incident tomorrow. If there is a need for her to engage with the Hill or Governors, please let Matt know.

Calls will continue tomorrow, same time.

Nitin Natarajan

Deputy Assistant Administrator

Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

Environmental Protection Agency

202-566-0200 Office